

## SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- The Move Has Begun!!
- Occupational and Environmental Health Division
- The Tunnels Running under “the Hill” at Brooks City-Base

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# USAFSAM



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## Commander's Commentary

**“IT” has begun...! The “IT” in this phrase refers to the massive, synchronized relocation of nearly a thousand folks and movement of tens of thousands of individual items. In this edition you will read about one of the first departments of USAFSAM to pack up and move and by the time you read this they will have a healthy contingent at WPAFB and the Brooks team will be well on their way to closing out their facilities.**

So, first let me give a bit of a refresher in case you did not keep your last newsletter posted on your wall. Starting in June we began to move our Public Health and Occupational and Environmental Health departments into temporary space in the WPAFB area. Both Public Health (Serology) and Occupational Health (radioanalytical, analytical chemistry) Laboratory functions are relocating to modular labs custom built on WPAFB, and the consultant activities are relocating into a huge facility in Kettering. This will allow us to vacate a couple of buildings that we will need to clean and prepare to turn in. This fall we will begin moving academic affairs and student support staff in anticipation of beginning enlisted technical training in January. Then, shortly after Christmas we will package up almost all of the rest of the school and begin moving staff north – moving door to door in March and April, and beginning activities in the new final facility as early as late March 2011.

For most of us PCS is preceded by a rush to finish the list of things left undone the past several years, then a mad rush to inventory that never quite gets done, and a frantic disposal of everything that really doesn't have to be packed – then a panic attack when the packers actually arrive. I have visions of the doorbell scene in “Christmas Vacation” as the doorbell gets deeper and more ominous with each ring.

And, indeed, I looked out my office window the other day – and there they were...a line of moving vans and an army of packers. “IT” was beginning, and all of the activities and

frantic movement above was too.

Coinciding with this event, by pure coincidence, was the issuance of Management Directed Reassignment letters to the civilian staff. We want to make sure that our faithful and dedicated civilian workforce has every opportunity to come with us to WPAFB in their current job, or to

seek and find employment elsewhere. So, several months before they are required at WPAFB each employee is formally notified of their reassignment to WPAFB and they must agree to go or they may enroll into the Priority Placement program to find new jobs. Thus far nearly half of our current employees have agreed to relocate – which is remarkable and encouraging. However, we also have a large number of vacancies already due to attrition that we have not hired into. Why am I telling this story? Because this is a time for our customers to be patient. The USAFSAM staff pride themselves on being able to turn on a dime, quick turn on the impossible tasker or rapidly field courses and changes. However, that versatility is taking a significant hit and will be sharply affected over the next few months. Our staff are busily cleaning up the “do lists”, physically clearing and relocating their workspaces – and moving their families. Our civilian workforce who are not going to WPAFB have been highly successful finding new jobs in San Antonio. These are the same folks who do

**much of the “back shop” work in our academic, leadership and consultative areas. Some work centers will be well below 50% staffed within a few weeks, and the remainder will be pulling the weight of the normal workload plus the relocation activities. And, most of the leadership team is doing dual operations at WPAFB and Brooks, so we are road warriors running back and forth to ensure the plans are going....well...as planned.**



We are moving! What that means to you, our customers and colleagues, is that we need your patience for several months. Our ability to deploy or support other units as we normally do will be severely curtailed as our staff is in transit and those left at home are physically moving the shops. Our ability to create or do major alterations to courses is already severely impacted as our academic affairs staff and faculty are **already critically manned...and are moving in addition to a full daily workload.**

The brighter light, though, is that we are at full capacity for classes still, actually bursting at the seams as we front loaded our courses in anticipation of the Spring 2011 gap – and in fact the courses are full. We have carefully planned to provide seamless overlap in our consultant divisions so that you will probably not know if you are talking to our staff at WPAFB or at Brooks. And, the facilities at WPAFB will be so much better than what we have now – in a year we will be wondering why we waited so long.

So, be patient now – moving is a lot of work, creates lots of stress and it will be especially apparent through the next several months. Expect that in early spring 2011 Brooks will be almost empty so plan your farewells then. And come about May of 2011 – expect to be amazed by your new USAFSAM!

## Occupational and Environmental Health

By: Col Richard Ashworth

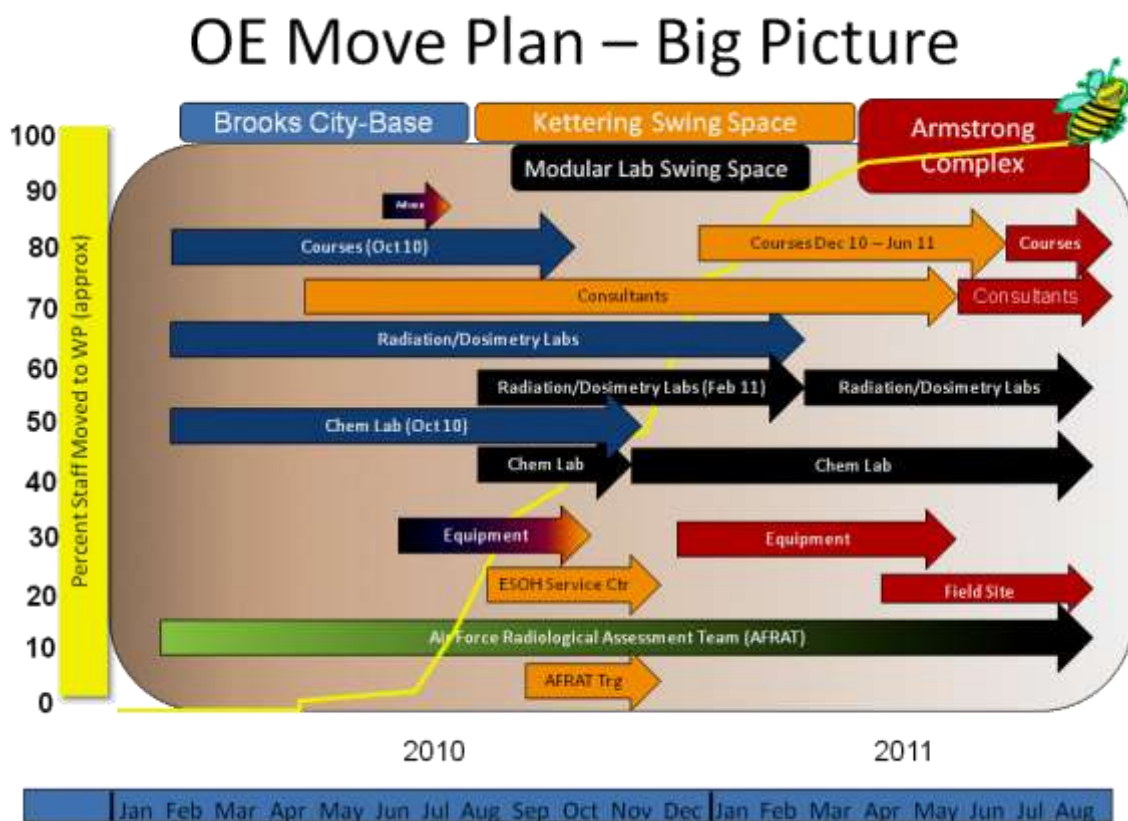
The Department of Occupational and Environmental Health (OE) stood-up in April 2008 with the merger of several functions from the Air Force Institute of Occupational Health and the bioenvironmental engineering training function from the United States Air Force School of Aerospace Medicine. Today the department is home to over

**Force's Radiological Assessment Team (AFRAT).** AFRAT is a highly trained and expertly equipped team ready to respond worldwide in hours following a radiological or nuclear incident.

One of the most significant challenges facing the department today is the Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) action to move the mission from Brooks City-Base, Texas to Wright Patterson Air Force Base

housed in temporary facilities on Wright Patterson AFB. The first education and training course will be conducted in the Kettering facilities in December of 2010 with the full complement of OE courses beginning in January 2011. The courses will transition to the new facility on Wright Patterson AFB in June 2011. Dual operations for the analytical functions will be conducted at Brooks City-Base and

Wright Patterson AFB OH to ensure no disruption of analytical services during the mission transition. Once an analytical function is fully operational and certified the service at Brooks City-Base will be discontinued and all services shifted to Wright Patterson AFB Ohio. Consulting services will be fully operational during the transition and will establish operations in the new facility once complete. The bottom line to our customers is the detailed and complicated BRAC move should appear seamless.



200 engineers, scientists, technicians, and occupational medicine professionals providing worldwide health risk assessment consultation, analytical, and education and training services. In accomplishing these missions the department oversees over 75,000 chemical and radiological analyses and directs 148 major occupational and environmental health projects and facilitates responses to over 5,000 inquiries annually. In addition, annually over 2,600 curriculum hours are generated producing 409 graduates from apprentice to advanced courses. The department is also the home of the Air

Ohio. This move will occur in stages over the period of May 2010 to August 2011.

For the OE department, the move begins in earnest in May 2010 when members begin departing Brooks City-Base to locations on and around Wright-Patterson AFB Ohio that will temporarily house OE functions while the new 711 Human Performance Wing Armstrong Complex is completed (expected Spring 2011). The OE education and training and consulting functions will be housed in government leased space in Kettering Ohio and the analytical functions will be

Other than a change of phone numbers and a new address they should expect and receive the same level of occupational and environmental health services they have come to expect in the past.

**To access those services today and for the near future** all they have to do is call Toll Free 1-888-232-ESOH (3764), Commercial (210) 536-5454, DSN 240-5454 or Fax (210) 536-2315 or email

## USAFSAM had 'Tunnel Vision'

By Rudy Purificato, 311<sup>th</sup> Air Base Group Historian

The U.S. Air Force School of Aerospace Medicine was the principal beneficiary of a tunnel system **beneath the historic "Hill Complex" that was so well engineered** that it would qualify for an episode on the landmark cable TV series **"Cities of the Underground."** Built in 1957 nearly two years

before USAFSAM moved back to Brooks AFB from Randolph AFB, the tunnel system was conceived to conceal and protect sensitive scientific work that was being conducted during the height of the Cold War. Research animals, scientific equipment and supplies and even daily mail delivery moved through the labyrinth system of tunnels that interconnected every **building on "The Hill Complex,"**

the historic space research district that also served as headquarters **for USAFSAM's parent organization** the Aerospace Medical Division.

**During periodic 'nuclear air raid' drills** held primarily in the 1960s, USAFSAM workers were among the 3,000 base personnel who **jammed the tunnels' fallout shelters.** Today, artifacts from that Cold War era remain in the tunnel crawl spaces: Civil Defense survival barrels for food, water and sanitation.



Survival supplies including carbohydrate supplements and sanitation kits still remain in the tunnel's fallout shelter.

(Photo by: Steve Thurow)

Tunnel passage under Brooks City-Base. View of the passage leading to the Brooks' power plant with the building directory posted to point to each building on "the hill" complex.

(Photo by: Steve Thurow)



## USAFSAM Keeps Warfighters Well, Safe, and Productive

By: Jay Marquart  
711TH Human Performance Wing

For those who enjoy identifying and solving problems before they impact people, the Occupational & Environmental Health Department at Brooks City-Base, Texas, is the place to be.

One of six departments in the United States Air Force School of Aerospace Medicine,

pabilities make the OE Department the front line for injury and illness prevention, helping the Air Force maximize workforce availability, that is, ensure its personnel can perform their duties efficiently in a healthy, safe workplace.

The unit has been effective in this role. Colonel Richard Ashworth, OE Department Chair, noted that,

played a huge part in this outcome."

The OE Department consists of two divisions: the Force Development Division, or OED, and the Occupational & Environmental Health Division, or OEH. Serving over 1,600 resident and distance-learning students annually, OED is the first stop for personnel entering the field of Air Force occupational and environmental health. Officers undergo a rigorous sixteen-week program in bioenvironmental engineering, which includes training across the chemical, biological, radiological, nuclear, and physical hazard spectrum. Enlisted airmen complete an equally tough twelve-week program in applied science to become bioenvironmental engineering technicians.



The USAFSAM Air Force Radiation Assessment Team (AFRAT) relies on training and technology to keep responding DoD personnel safe during a radiologic or nuclear emergency. Here, MSgt Ty Richards adjusts TSgt Jalayne Powers' respirator during a training exercise. (USAF Photo by Steven Thurow)

711th Human Performance Wing, the OE Department consists of more than 200 engineers, scientists and other professionals, all dedicated to one goal: keeping the warfighter well, safe, and productive.

The OE Department supplies customers throughout the Air Force with proactive occupational and environmental health surveillance capabilities built around three competencies: education and training, consultation, and laboratory analytical services. These ca-

historically during wartime, more military personnel have been removed from duty through disease and non-battle injuries than any other cause. Thanks to the OE Department and similar organizations in other DoD branches, this situation has changed dramatically.

"Disease and non-battle injury rates are at their lowest level ever," said Ashworth. "Prevention programs have

The training is demanding. But as much as OED expects of students, it requires even more of itself. To ensure courses reflect the latest corporate requirements, OED constantly reviews new technology (for example, updated field portable gas chromatographs and radiation detection equipment) and conducts

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## USAFSAM Keeps Warfighters Well, Safe, and Productive

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Utilization and Training Workshops that first share with field personnel what the schoolhouse is teaching then ask: "What do we need to modify?" Exploring new ways to serve distance-learning students more efficiently is also a priority.

According to Major Robert Eninger, Chief of the Force Development Division, "The customers dictate what we teach, and our challenge is that things do change all the time." Yet he added the importance of OED's mission and the pleasure of "watching young people come into the Air Force, grow as individuals, and become better airmen, citizens, and family members" makes the effort worthwhile.

OEH, with its three branches, Radiation Health (OEHH), Risk Analysis (OEHR), and Technical Services (OEHT) comprises the consultative and analytical services of the OE Department. Annually overseeing more than 75,000 chemical and radiological analyses, OEH also currently helps the

OE Department direct 148 major occupational and environmental health projects worldwide. Additionally, the division fields a 24/7, 365 telephone hotline that provides immediate environment, safety, and occupational health support.

A highly visible unit

forces can best support other state and Federal agencies. AFRAT monitors and assesses the radiation hazards and recommends actions to protect the health of military personnel and the public. Maintaining this capability requires continual effort. "The training never ends," said Major Steve

Steve Dewey, Chief of OEHH and long-time AFRAT member. "I've been at this eighteen years and I still learn new things every day."

An integral part of Team Aerospace, the OE Department coordinates its surveillance activities with other disciplines such as Aerospace Medicine and Public Health



within OE is the Air Force Radiation Assessment Team, or AFRAT, an elite emergency force that can respond to radiological or nuclear incidents literally anywhere within hours. AFRAT's primary mission is force protection of DoD personnel responding to a radiological emergency, but during a national incident, it also assists the commander with expert advice on how DoD

to fully characterize workspace exposures and the protective measures to be observed. From insuring the quality of drinking water, to monitoring air quality around burn pits in Iraq, the OE Department is on the job, anticipating - and mitigating - workplace hazards, keeping as many airmen as possible out of the clinics and on the job.

## The Move Has Begun!

**By: John Garland and E'Lisa Wilcox**

As San Antonio starts their July with **average high's of 95°, dozens of staff** from the USAF School of Aerospace Medicine (USAFSAM) and the 711<sup>th</sup> Human Performance Wing are on their way to Wright-Patterson (average Jul high 85°).

Actually, many key support areas have been staffed for months in planning, personnel, finance, facilities, and security to name just a few. But this part of the team mainly came from the local area in Ohio.

The very first arrivals from San Antonio were still not in the mission areas, but key support players like Financial Management (FM) personnel, Biomedical Equipment Technicians (BMETs from OML), and a Military Training Leader (MTL from CCQ) to help pave the way for the basic training students.

The first mission area personnel have now left and are arriving in June and July. These personnel, who will work in the modular buildings in Area B, are specialists in radiation, environmental chemistry, and epidemiology laboratory services. Their job will be to receive property shipments, place, and hook-up, troubleshoot, and review all the supporting procedures for radiological, environmental, and clinical sample analysis. Soon production staff will be hired or will arrive and these laboratory areas will begin the process of certifying their newly installed equipment as capable of accurately performing the required analytical work. After this stage, *real* samples, samples from the Air Force customers around the world, will begin to arrive and be analyzed between Oct 2010 and Jan 2011. USAFSAM clinical sample analyses will continue in San Antonio until May of 2011.

Also arriving in July, over at the Kettering office area, are parts of the academic program. Each of the four mission specialty areas, for example Public Health, works with the Dean to provide education and training related to their **mission area. Parts of the Dean's office, Public Health, and Bioenvironmental Engineering academic staff will transfer the academic programs from San Anto-**

nio into Kettering, creating a new schoolhouse ready for the first students and the first class in Dec 2010. There has been tremendous support from the 88<sup>th</sup> ABW to provide for the care and feeding of students and customers. The last undergraduate classes will not end in San Antonio until late Jan 2011 and the first classes will be conducted from the new building in Area B at the end of Mar 2011.

The final broad area of new arrivals will be specialty consultants and the research investigators. A large portion of the mission of USAFSAM is worldwide consulting, whether on an illness outbreak, an occupational hazard, a fitness to fly question, or some other Aerospace Medicine issue. Some consultants will begin moving their base of operations from San Antonio into both the Kettering and the Modular work areas after Jul 2010. The last consultants will

leave San Antonio in Mar Of 2011. With the movement of the first personnel and the shipment of the first property, the day has finally arrived for those who have been involved in the planning for almost five years since the Base Realignment and Closure decision. We laugh as whatever can go wrong does go wrong (Did you know that the Maj Edward Murphy of **Murphy's Law** fame was involved in high speed rocket sled experiments with the USAF School of Aviation Medicine in the 1940s when he coined that phrase?) – nevertheless, these first steps toward Ohio are **exhilarating** and we **"Texans"** are grateful for cool weather and the warm welcome from so many!

MSgt Vensel the senior Military Training Leader moves into his new office space at WPAFB.



SSgt Robert Bennett, SSgt Jennifer Shoup, and SSgt Andrew Eccleston from the Public Health Department are all smiles as they unload a car full of boxes in front of the modular buildings where they will work until the Armstrong Complex is completed in April 2011.

Armstrong Complex at  
WPAFB

Temporary Office Space  
at the Kettering Office  
Park



Pipeline Dormitory in  
Building #243

Temporary  
Laboratory in  
Modular Buildings on  
Wright-Patterson

Course Name	Start Date	End Date	Wright-Patterson AFB, OH	Brooks City-Base, TX	Kettering, OH
AEROSPACE MEDICINE PRIMARY	2-Aug-10	10-Sep-10		B	
	20-Sep-10	29-Oct-10		B	
AEROMEDICAL EVACUATION TECHNICIAN	16-Aug-10	11-Sep-10		B	
	12-Oct-10	9-Nov-10		B	
	3-Jan-11	29-Jan-11		B	
	30-May-11	25-Jun-11	WP		
	27-Jun-11	23-Jul-11	WP		
AEROSPACE PHYSIOLOGY CRAFTSMAN	16-Aug-10	20-Aug-10		B	
	13-Jun-11	17-Jun-11	WP		
Bioenvironmental Engineering Site Assessment	23-Aug-10	3-Sep-10		B	
	6-Dec-10	17-Dec-10			K
	24-Jan-11	4-Feb-11			K
BIOENVIRONMENTAL ENGINEERING CRAFTSMAN TRAINING	16-Aug-10	20-Aug-10		B	
	10-Jan-11	14-Jan-11			K
	27-Jun-11	1-Jul-11	WP		
EXPEDITIONARY MEDICAL SUPPORT BASIC	9-Aug-10	13-Aug-10		B	
	23-Aug-10	27-Aug-10		B	
	13-Sep-10	17-Sep-10		B	
	20-Sep-10	24-Sep-10		B	
	4-Oct-10	8-Oct-10		B	
	18-Oct-10	22-Oct-10		B	
	1-Nov-10	5-Nov-10		B	
	15-Nov-10	19-Nov-10		B	
	29-Nov-10	3-Dec-10		B	
	6-Dec-10	10-Dec-10		B	
	31-Jan-11	4-Feb-11		B	
	9-Aug-10	13-Aug-10		B	
Flight Medicine Management Workshop	20-Sep-10	24-Sep-10		B	
	4-Oct-10	8-Oct-10		B	
	15-Nov-10	19-Nov-10		B	
	7-Feb-11	11-Feb-11			K
	14-Mar-11	18-Mar-11			K
	25-Apr-11	29-Apr-11			K
	16-Aug-10	11-Sep-10		B	
FLIGHT NURSE	12-Oct-10	9-Nov-10		B	
	3-Jan-11	29-Jan-11		B	
	30-May-11	25-Jun-11	WP		
	27-Jun-11	23-Jul-11	WP		

Course Name	Start Date	End Date	Wright-Patterson AFB, OH	Brooks City-Base, TX	Kettering, OH
HUMAN PERFORMANCE ENHANCEMENT COURSE	23-Aug-10	3-Sep-10		B	
	20-Jun-11	1-Jul-11	WP		
PIMR and AF Complete Immunization Tracking System Workshop	26-Aug-10	27-Aug-10		B	
	4-Apr-11	5-Apr-11			K
	7-Apr-11	8-Apr-11			K
Principles of Aerospace Physiology Instruction	15-Aug-10	8-Sep-10		B	
USAF HEARING CONSERVATION CERTIFICATION	2-Aug-10	5-Aug-10		B	
	10-Jan-11	13-Jan-11			K
	7-Feb-11	10-Feb-11			K
	14-Mar-11	17-Mar-11			K
	18-Apr-11	21-Apr-11			K
	2-May-11	5-May-11			K
	13-Jun-11	16-Jun-11	WP		
USAF HEARING CONSERVATION RECERTIFICATION	9-Aug-10	10-Aug-10		B	
	20-Jan-11	21-Jan-11			K
	3-Feb-11	4-Feb-11			K
	14-Apr-11	15-Apr-11			K
	9-May-11	10-May-11			K
CRITICAL CARE AIR TRANSPORT TEAM COURSE	13-Sep-10	24-Sep-10		B	
	18-Oct-10	29-Oct-10		B	
	6-Dec-10	17-Dec-10		B	
	3-Jan-11	14-Jan-11		B	
	30-May-11	10-Jun-11	WP		
	27-Jun-11	8-Jul-11	WP		
HEALTH PROMOTION WORKSHOP	27-Sep-10	1-Oct-10		B	
HYPERBARIC CARE SUPPLEMENTAL DIVER COURSE	21-Sep-10	23-Sep-10		B	
Aerospace Physiology Apprentice	8-Oct-10	10-Dec-10		B	
ADVANCED CLINICAL CONCEPTS IN AEROMEDICAL EVACUATION	15-Nov-10	19-Nov-10		B	
Aircraft Mishap Investigation & Prevention Courses (AMIP Clinical Psychologists, AMIP NON-USAF MEDICAL INVESTIGATOR, AMIP USAF MEDICAL INVESTIGATOR)	29-Nov-10	10-Dec-10		B	
	4-Apr-11	15-Apr-11			K
Chief Aeromedical Services & Advanced Flight Surgeon Symposium	1-Nov-10	5-Nov-10		B	
	18-Apr-11	22-Apr-11			K
BIOENVIRONMENTAL ENGINEERING APPRENTICE	10-Jan-11	15-Apr-11			K
	21-Apr-11	28-Jul-11			K

Course Name	Start Date	End Date	Wright-Patterson AFB, OH	Brooks City-Base, TX	Kettering, OH
GLOBAL MEDICINE	31-Jan-11	11-Feb-11		B	
PUBLIC HEALTH APPRENTICE	3-Jan-11	29-Mar-11			K
	4-Apr-11	27-Jun-11			K
BIOENVIRONMENTAL ENGINEERING OFFICER COURSE (FULL COURSE)	11-Feb-11	27-May-11			K
Medical Group Commanders Orientation to Aerospace Medicine	25-Apr-11	29-Apr-11			K
	23-May-11	27-May-11	WP		
Contingency Preventive Medicine	14-Feb-11	18-Feb-11			K
	7-Mar-11	11-Mar-11			K
	16-May-11	20-May-11			K
Force Health Management Workshop	31-Jan-11	4-Feb-11			K
	28-Feb-11	4-Mar-11			K
AEROSPACE MEDICINE 101	28-Mar-11	8-Apr-11	W		
OCCUPATIONAL MEDICINE COURSE	7-Mar-11	11-Mar-11		B	
PUBLIC HEALTH ASPECTS USAF OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH AUDIOLOGISTS	28-Mar-11	8-Apr-11			K
PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICER (Increments 1-5)	1-Mar-11	6-May-11			K
PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICER ADVANCED	9-May-11	13-May-11			K
AEROSPACE MEDICINE 201	11-Apr-11	22-Apr-11	WP		
AEROSPACE MEDICINE 202	25-Apr-11	6-May-11	WP		
HAZARDOUS WASTE OPERATIONS AND EMERGENCY RESPONSE	16-May-11	20-May-11			K
OPERATIONAL ENTOMOLOGY	18-Apr-11	29-Apr-11			K
	9-May-11	20-May-11			K
	20-Jun-11	1-Jul-11	WP		
RTU	9-May-11	13-May-11		B	
Aerospace Physiologist	28-Jun-11	5-Aug-11	WP		

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